Message Text

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13-12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 301550Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6100

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 560

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, PLO

SUBJ: INDICATIONS OF PLO THINKING ON JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN

TIES

1. KNOWLEDGEABLE PALESTINIAN SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT WITHIN PLO THERE IS LITTLE HOPE OF IMPROVING TIES WITH JORDAN IN NEAR FUTURE AND THAT PLO NOT EVEN WILLING CONSIDER IDEA OF ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA MEPC AS PART OF JORDANIAN DELEGATION. A PRIME REASON FOR THIS PLO VIEW. SOURCE SAID. WAS REPORT IT HAD RECEIVED OF SUGGESTION REPORTEDLY MADE BY KING KHALID TO KING HUSSEIN DURING HIS DEC 1975 VISIT TO AMMAN THAT JORDAN AGREE ACCEPT SYMBOLIC PALESTINIAN PRESENCE ALONG JORDAN RIVER. KHALID ALLEGEDLY PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF EIGHT PALESTINIAN BASES, EACH MANNED BY SIX FEDAYEEN. HUSSEIN'S SUMMARY REJECTION OF KHALID'S MEDIATORY ATTEMPT INDICATED TO PLO LEADERSHIP THAT HUSSEIN WOULD PROBABLY BE UNWILLING TO CONFIDENTIAL

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COMPROMISE IN ANY WAY ON KEY ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN

PRESENCE IN JORDAN. THEREFORE, THEY SEE NO HOPE FOR NEAR-TERM IMPROVEMENT IN JORDANIAN-PLO RELATIONSHIP.

2. COMMENT. SOURCE PROBABLY OBTAINED THIS STORY FROM KHALID AL-FAHUM WHO IS HIS PRINCIPAL CONTACT ON PLO EXCOMM. WHILE LESS IS HEARD THESE DAYS ABOUT POSSIBLE JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN RECONCILIATION, PERHAPS THROUGH SYRIAN MEDIATION, ANOTHER REASON COULD BE SIMPLY SYRO-PALESTINIAN PREOCCUPATION WITH LEBANESE CRISIS.

MURPHY

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